

Dear Commissioners,

Once again our public resources are being hijacked by a powerful media conglomerate to serve a political end for a desperate minority.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

While I am a proponent of free speech, I resent our public channels being clogged by partisan propaganda posing as impartial news. If impartiality is claimed, then equal time on the station must be devoted to opposing views or the licensing of such stations should come into question.

This issue is key to protecting American freedom and keeping public resources public-- not just for the wealthy elite.

Thank you for your consideration,
Wesley Fredenburg